

**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend claim 1 and add claims 21-23 as follows:**

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1. (Amended) A joining structure comprising:

a first member having a serration portion; and

a second member to be joined to the serration portion, wherein the first member has a surface contact portion at location adjacent to the serration portion to be surface-contacted with the second member;

the first member is a metal yoke of a propeller shaft; and

the second member is a fiberglass reinforced plastic cylinder of the propeller shaft.

2. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein:

the serration portion is provided at a pressure insertion end portion of the first member;

A. the second member has a pressure insertion portion to be pressure-inserted and joined to the serration portion;

the surface contact portion includes a step portion provided between a leading end portion of the pressure insertion end portion and the serration portion to extend in an axial direction; and

a diameter of the step portion is equal to a diameter of the pressure insertion portion or set between the diameter of the pressure insertion portion and a diameter of the serration portion.

3. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

the serration portion is provided to an outer circumferential surface of the pressure insertion end portion;

the pressure insertion portion of the second member is hollow; and

<sup>A1</sup>  
(cancel) an outer diameter of the step portion is not smaller than an inner diameter of the pressure insertion portion, and is smaller than an outer diameter of the serration portion.

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4. ~~(Previously Withdrawn)~~

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5. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

the first member is a metal member; and

the second member is a resin member.

6. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

after the second member is joined to the serration portion of the first member, the step portion is in non-contact with the second member.

7. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

the first member has a chamfering portion extended from the leading end portion to the step portion.

8. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

<sup>A2</sup> the step portion is connected to the serration portion through an inclined surface.

9. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

the step portion is connected to the serration portion through an inclined surface; and

a relief portion in the form of a recess is provided to a connection portion between the inclined surface and the step portion.

10. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 3, wherein:

A<sub>2</sub>  
(cancel)

the step portion is tapered so that the outer diameter of the step portion is made smaller toward the leading end portion.

~~11.~~ (Previously Withdrawn)

12. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 3, wherein:

A<sub>3</sub>  
portion is made smaller toward to the leading end portion.

~~13.~~ (Previously Withdrawn)

14. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

the step portion is formed by partially removing addendum portions of the serration portion.

15. (Original) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

A<sub>4</sub>  
the step portion is formed cylindrically between the leading end portion and the serration portion.

16. (Canceled)

~~17-20~~ (Previously Withdrawn)

21. (New) A joining structure according to claim 2, wherein:

the pressure insertion end portion of the first member is hollow;

A<sub>5</sub>  
the serration portion is provided to an inner circumferential surface of the pressure insertion portion; and

an inner diameter of the step portion is not larger than the pressure insertion portion, and is larger than an inner diameter of the serration portion.

22. (New) A joining structure according to claim 21, wherein:

the step portion is tapered so that the inner diameter of the step portion is made larger toward the leading end portion.

As  
(amended)

23. (New) A joining structure according to claim 22, wherein:

the serration portion is tapered so that the inner diameter of the serration portion is made larger toward the leading end portion.

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